

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Program: <b>AMA2008, Fiscal Year 2013</b>	
Ranking Tool: <b>Cropland - Drought Mitigation</b>	

*National Priorities Addressed*

Issue Questions	Responses
<b>1. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
<b>2. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:</b>	
2. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
<b>3. Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:</b>	
3. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO <sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide), CH <sub>4</sub> (Methane), and N <sub>2</sub> O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
3. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
<b>4. Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:</b>	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
<b>5. Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:</b>	
5. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
<b>6. High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:</b>	
6. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
6. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
6. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
6. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
<b>7. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:</b>	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)

Issue Questions	Responses
8. Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
8. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>250</i>

#### *State Issues Addressed*

Issue Questions	Responses
Abundant Water: Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Construct or improve irrigation structures?	50 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. Reduce the risk of crop loss due to drought?	75 Point(s)
Answer one of the following based on the AMA Ranking & Irrigation Planning Workbook score:	
3. a. The total score of the AMA application evaluation worksheet is 45 or greater.	200 Point(s)
3. b. The total score of the AMA application evaluation worksheet is 42 - 44.	150 Point(s)
3. c. The total score of the AMA application evaluation worksheet is 39 - 41.	100 Point(s)
3. d. The total score of the AMA application evaluation worksheet is 36 - 38.	75 Point(s)
3. e. The total score of the AMA application evaluation worksheet is 33 - 35.	50 Point(s)
3. f. The total score of the AMA application evaluation worksheet is 30 - 32.	25 Point(s)
3. g. The total score of the AMA application evaluation worksheet is <30.	5 Point(s)
Other considerations: Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
4. a. The applicant has never before been selected for funding through AMA.	75 Point(s)
4. b. The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contract funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill?	-25 Point(s)
4. c. The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active conservation program contract?	-50 Point(s)
4. d. NRCS has TERMINATED a conservation program contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause?	-75 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>400</i>

#### *Local Issues Addressed*

Issue Questions	Responses
Abundant Water: Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Reduce or eliminate the use of public water supply systems to irrigate crops?	100 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Improve PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR)?	25 Point(s)
2. b. Improve an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?	25 Point(s)
Other considerations: Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
3. a. Received non-insured crop disaster assistance program payment for losses due to drought on enrolled land.	75 Point(s)
3. b. Formed partnerships among agencies (i.e. MDAR, DCR, NHESP, USFWS) to support financial and /or technical assistance for the proposed project?	25 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>250</i>